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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002914
ORIGIN STR-06

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 /015 R

DRAFTED BY STR/TREGAN:TK
APPROVED BY STR/JSTARKEY
USDA/SEARLY
STATE/JFERCH
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O 052345Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 002914

PASS TO MICHAEL ROWNEY, CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: JA

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: TOKYO 0163

1. RE: THIRD PARA REFTEL, ESTIMATES OF FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON MEAT DO NOT, REPEAT DO NOT, SUGGEST THAT FOREIGN SOURCES FOR MEAT WILL BE UNRELIABLE IN THE FUTURE.

2.THE OCTOBER 1977 SUMMARY OF THE FAO MEAT DEMAND AND PRO-DUCTION PROJECTIONS TO 1985, WHICH WERE REVIEWED AT THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MEAT ON DECEMBER 5-9, INCLUDED NO COMPLETE SUPPLY-DEMAND ANALYSIS. WHILE THE SUMMARY INDICATED THAT MEAT PRODUCTION IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE 2.4 TO 3.0 PERCENT ANNUALLY TO 1985, IT STATED ONLY THAT INCREASES IN DEMAND CAUSED BY HIGHER INCOMES MAY BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR SOMETIME, CONFIDENTIAL

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ESPECIALLY IN THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE, THE FAO ANALYSIS IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO REVISION AND WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE. THE COM-MITTEE QUESTIONED THE ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH THE ANALYSIS WAS BASED.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY ON THIS

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MATTER, YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
-- WE UNDERSTAND THAT, BASED ON LATEST FAO ESTIMATES,THE MINISTRY IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RELIABILITY OF FOREIGN SUPPLIERS FOR MEAT.
-- WE DO NOT BELIEVE SUCH CONCERN IS JUSTIFIED.
-- THE FAO ESTIMATES ARE TENTATIVE AND WERE NOT ACCEPTED BY THE FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MEAT. MOREOVER, LONG-TERM PROJECTIONS OF THE WORLD MEAT SITUATION ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE AND ARE SUBJECT TO CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY DUE TO THE UNPREDICTABLE EFFECT OF EXOGENOUS VARIABLES ON THE MEAT CYCLE.
-- THE FACT THAT JAPAN'S MEAT QUOTAS HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN FULFILLED IS EVIDENCE THAT FOREIGN SUPPLIERS ARE RELIABLE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE002914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TK
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780009-0402
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780194/aaaadbva.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 83a201e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN STR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 163
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3821692
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TAGS: EPAP, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83a201e6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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